

the unusual and inappropriate mechanism of the self-enacting rule to add the creation of a new and completely unnecessary Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. We are being asked to support the expenditure of nearly \$4 million on a committee that would have no legislative jurisdiction and would cover no issue that is not already well addressed by existing committees. It strikes me that \$4 million is too much for the taxpayer to pay for press releases.

The attempt to create this expensive and useless committee has added an unacceptable element to what would otherwise be a bill I could support. Therefore, I reluctantly oppose H. Res. 202.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT CATS & RARE CANIDS ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Great Cats & Rare Canids Act along with my original cosponsors and fellow coauthors of the International Conservation Caucus, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. TANNER and our newest coauthor, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, the first time you witness a great cat or a wild dog, you are likely to feel a rush of adrenaline, a sense of awe, and a heightened awareness of your vulnerability. Leading experts in carnivore biology assure us that these majestic animals feel equal anticipation and anxiety when encountering people. When I spoke with Dr. Alan Rabinowitz of the Wildlife Conservation Society, who has dedicated his life to saving big cats like jaguars, tigers and snow leopards, he told me, "Of all of the earth's magnificent creatures, the ones easiest to identify with, the ones most symbolic of the wildness remaining on our planet are the large carnivores, the top predators of the world." He is right.

Lions, cheetahs, leopards, African wild dogs, Ethiopian wolves, jaguars, mottled wolves, bush dogs, clouded leopards, snow leopards, dholes, Iberian lynx and European gray wolves face threats from habitat conversion, loss of food sources, illegal trade, and disease. Scientists report that populations of all of these species are sharply declining compared to their historic ranges. African wild dogs and Ethiopian wolves especially are approaching crisis. Populations of snow leopards in Asia have declined due to illegal hunting for their use in traditional Asian medicine.

That is why it is imperative that the United States, through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, support efforts to conserve these predators at the top of the food chain. Modeled after the highly successful Multinational Species Conservation Funds, which conserve rhinos, tigers, Great Apes, Asian elephants, African elephants, and marine turtles, this bill is authorized at \$5 million annually for the conservation of more than a dozen species of great cats and rare canines existing outside the United States. Acting as umbrella species for entire ecosystems, the health and stability of these iconic species are excellent indicators of human sustainability as well.

I don't stand alone in my conviction to conserve these species. My fellow coauthors of the

House International Conservation Caucus and 77 other Members of Congress cosponsored the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act in the 109th Congress. In fact, last year on Capitol Hill, another champion of these animals, the actress Glenn Close, who serves on the Board of the Wildlife Conservation Society, premiered a film entitled *Living With Predators*, to raise awareness of the plight faced by these predators and how global conservation organizations are offering innovative solutions to ensure their healthy populations and landscapes remain. Even just a minor commitment from the United States will greatly support their efforts. This bill authorizes that support.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my fellow coauthors of the House International Conservation Caucus—Representative TANNER, Representative ROGERS, and Representative ROYCE—to re-introduce the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2007. I call on all members of Congress to show their support for these wonderful wild animals and the ecosystems in which they exist by cosponsoring this bill.

PEACHCARE III

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to call attention to the funding emergency that threatens Georgia's PeachCare.

This is the third time this week I have stood here and announced that starting this Sunday—in just 2 days—no new children will be permitted to enroll.

If no action is taken by Congress or the Governor, this program will run out of funding completely within the next month.

And hard-working Georgia families will no longer be able to provide health care for their children.

I call on the Governor of Georgia and my colleagues in this Congress to ensure these children get the care they need.

I call on my colleagues and the Governor to save PeachCare.

These children deserve healthy futures.

HONORING MR. DENNIS EVERHART

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dennis Everhart of Woodrow, Colorado, for his impressive contributions to Colorado agriculture. Dennis touched many lives and shared his love for agriculture as a Vocational Agriculture teacher for 26 years. Recently, Dennis received the high honor of induction into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Dennis was raised on a ranch in New Raymer, Colorado, where his family ran a cow and calf operation. After working several years in the oil fields and with his parents in a custom haying operation, Dennis joined the Marines. Following 52 months of active duty,

Dennis returned home and earned his bachelor of science degree from Colorado State University in 1970. Dennis taught Vocational Agriculture at Woodlin School in Washington County from 1970 to 1998, taking 1 year off to teach in Golden and 2 years off to manage a commercial hog operation. After retirement, Dennis ran for county commissioner and is currently serving his ninth year as Washington County Commissioner. Dennis and his wife Evelyn are the parents of three grown sons: Doug, Todd and Dennis.

Dennis taught a complete program in vocational agriculture, including crop science, livestock science, agricultural mechanics, marketing and management, and leadership skills. Both he and his students enjoyed a great deal of success. Twenty-six of his students earned the American Farmer/FFA degree; 81 students received the State Farmer/FFA degree. There were also a number of State winners of proficiency awards as well as several State officers from the Woodlin Future Farmers of America chapter. Several of Mr. Everhart's students are currently teaching agriculture education in Colorado. Dennis was a mentor to other young educators as well, supervising student teachers for 23 years. Additionally, Dennis was a sponsor of a successful Colorado Young Farmers Education Association Chapter.

As an individual, Dennis earned many awards through the years, including: honorary membership in the Woodlin FFA chapter; Honorary State Farmer Degree; Honorary American Farmer Degree; Friend of Washington County; 4-H Outstanding Young Farmer Advisor; Outstanding Young Member of Colorado Vocational Ag Teachers Association; Outstanding Region II Teacher for National Association of Ag Educators; Distinguished Service Award from Production Credit Association and officer of the Colorado Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (serving as president 1987–1988). Dennis was also named U.S. Steel's Ag Teacher of the year and 1998 Ag Teacher of the year by Western District Ag Education.

Dennis led by example and his enthusiastic community involvement demonstrated his passion for making a positive impact on the world around him. I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to honor Dennis Everhart today for his commitment and devotion to Colorado agriculture.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONALD S. KWALICK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Donald S. Kwalick, who will be retiring as the Chief Health Officer of the Southern Nevada Health District.

Dr. Kwalick has devoted more than 25 years to serving the community as a public health official. Dr. Kwalick earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences from Rutgers University and his Medical Degree from New York University. He also attended Columbia University where he earned his Masters in Public Health.

Dr. Kwalick began his service to the community as a public health servant in the 1970s